RIVKA LOVED YAAKOV*

וַיֶּאֱהַב יִצְחָק אֶת־עֵשָׂו

כִּי־צַיִד בְּפִיו

וְרִבְקָה אֹהֶבֶת אֶת־יַעֲקֹב׃

Now Yitzhak loved Esav
because of venison [he put] in his mouth;
and Rikva loved Yaakov.

Now Yitzhak loved Esav—In his firstborn son, Esav, a rapist (Baba Bathra 16b) who affected piety with cunning speech (Genesis Rabbah 63:12), Yitzhak saw only the practical strengths that he himself lacked, and he knew the need his descendants would have of them. *And Rivka loved Yaakov*—A prophetic vision (Genesis Rabbah 67:9) allowed Rivka to see that Torah is the supreme source of strength, and to ensure the well-being of Yaakov Avinu because he was dedicated to its service.

* Genesis 25:28 (in Toldot)

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